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PATENT

Atty Docket No.: 70006393-1

App. Ser. No.: 09/943,027

IN THE CLAIMS:-

Please find a listing of the claims below, with the statuses of the claims shown in parentheses. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) A method for executing a work flow in a workflow management system (WFMS) having at least one process instance executing an original process definition, and migrating the said process instance to a changed process definition according to claim 3, said method comprising:

a) checking each process instance during the execution of the original process definition whether the process instance meets a migration condition, wherein checking each process instance comprises defining a set of worst case migration points (WMP) by reading the set of worst case migration points (WMP) from an user input, or computing the set of worst case migration points (WMP) based upon the original process definition and the modified process definition, the step-of-computing of a the set of worst case migration points (WMP) comprises the following steps:

- defining a set D including all nodes that are changed in the modified process definition with respect to the original process definition;
- determining a set P including all predecessor nodes for all nodes belonging to set D;
- determining a reachability matrix $R=(r_{ij})$ for all nodes belonging to set P, each

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row and column in the reachability matrix R representing a node in the order listed in P , wherein a node X representing a column is regarded as reachable from a another node Y representing a row, if there exists a path of arcs forward from X to Y ; and

- determining the set of worst case migration points from the reachability matrix

 R

b) migrating the process instance to the modified process definition if its execution has not gone beyond anyone of said worst case migration points (WMP), thereby meeting the migration condition, such that said process instance executes said changed process definition.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of determining the reachability matrix $R=(r_{ij})$ further comprises the following actions:

- attributing a valued of x to each reachability matrix element r_{ij} if the predecessor node corresponding to said column j is reachable from the node corresponding to said row i ;
- attributing a value of x to each reachability matrix element r_{ij} and
- attributing a value of y to each reachability matrix element r_{ij} if the predecessor node corresponding to said column j is not reachable from the node corresponding to said row i .

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the worst case migration points are determined by selecting those predecessor nodes for which the elements r_{ij} from the corresponding column add to a value of x .

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein a value of 1 is chosen for x and a value of 0 is chosen for y.

Claims 8-16 (Canceled).